

History

Wamesit Village was once a part of Tewksbury PA3

Lifestyle

Coronavirus causing hairy situation for many PB5

Sports

Wilmington Volleyball Coach Bruce Shainwald resigns PB6

Wilmington

Town



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16 PAGES

Tewksbury and Wilmington still accepting donations during COVID-19 pandemic

By CASEY STEVENSON
News Correspondent

TEWKSBURY/WILMINGTON — The Tewksbury Food Pantry has been working extra hard during these tough times, as unemployment rates rise for many workers and their families. Across the country, food banks and pantries have seen an increase in need, as well. However, Tewksbury has risen to meet that need.

In a newsletter released on April 11, the pantry said:

"History has shown repeatedly that in times of great difficulty, there are often people who rise to the occasion. This pandemic is proving to be no different. The news nationally and locally has reported multiple stories of people going out of their way to assist others in unique and heartfelt ways. Tewksbury is no different. The Tewksbury Community Pantry has been the beneficiary of many examples of that generosity and concern over the last few weeks. Our community has demonstrated its certain and firm commitment to those less fortunate among us through multiple group and individual efforts to raise food or monetary donations directed to the community pantry."

Groups such as Wilmington Cares, a Facebook group of local moms and citizens, have helped with this cause, dropping off food and cash donations, as well.

Items they accept are all canned goods, peanut butter, jelly, jam, cereal, pancake mix, pasta, canned and dry milk, coffee, tea, cocoa, juices, flour, sugar, oil, baking mixes, olives, pickles, sauces, gravies, sugar-free products, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, relish, dish and laundry soap, shampoo, soap, disposable razors, tissues, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, plastic bags, foil, paper plates, plastic utensils, and toothpaste.

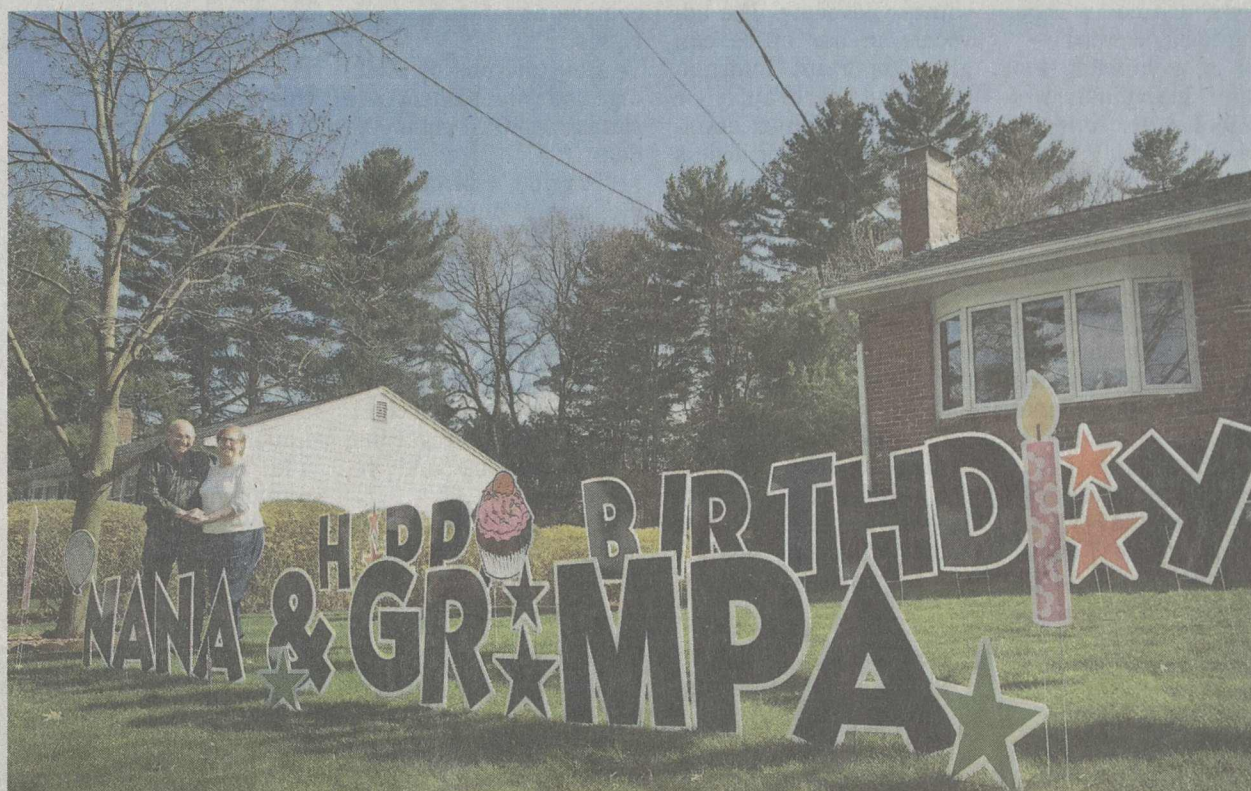
They also accept Pay Pal donations, cash, checks, and stocks from investment portfolios.

The Tewksbury Food Pantry opened in January 1995 to battle hunger and bring food to those in need in Tewksbury. They had opened in Saint Williams Church, and then shifted to the Center School, on Pleasant Street, for three years.

Today, they have their own building on the site of the Department of Public Works. (999 Whipple Road).

If you would like to drop off a food donation, they invite you to drop off inside the building in the bins they have set out. They also remind those donating to remain socially distant and, if someone else is dropping off items, to wait in your car until they return to their cars.

Anyone wishing to send a cash or check donation can do so by mailing the cash or check to them, or donating through a link on their website.



BIG Birthday wishes!

Ann and John Martins both have birthdays in April. Ann, April 2 and John, April 22. They have been married for 51 years, have three children and eight grandkids! How did this birthday greeting get on our front lawn??? What a great idea! (photo: Bruce Hilliard)

Shawsheen chooses new superintendent

By CASSIA BURNS
News Correspondent

BILLERICA — On Tuesday April 28, the Shawsheen Tech School Committee voted to appoint Dr. Brad Jackson as the new superintendent. The vote comes after deciding to suspend and restart the superintendent search at the last school committee meeting on April 1.

There had been rumors among the Shawsheen Tech community leading up to the vote that the School Committee would select Jackson. Several expressed disappointment, not at Jackson specifically, but at the entire process since the committee recently voted to suspend the search when they couldn't agree on a candidate.

A Wilmington resident, Jackson has been serving as the Holliston School

District Superintendent for the past 16 years. Though originally considered as the Screening Committee's top choice prior to the announcement of the finalists, Jackson had withdrawn himself from consideration, for he was not willing to commit to being a long-term superintendent. He reconsidered and decided to interview for the position after the committee stated they could offer a two or three year contract.

Though not looking to stay in the district long term, Jackson hopes to lay the foundation for the next superintendent to take over after him.

"I'm not going to be the Superintendent of Shawsheen for the next 16 years," said Jackson. "I see it as my responsibility to find and mentor leaders that can take Shawsheen into the next generation."

Aside from his current position in Holliston, Jackson has 26 years of central office experience. He began his career within School Business Administration for a district with a regional school. He then spent four years locally in Wilmington overseeing Business and Administration.

Prior to his position in Holliston, he served as Asst. Superintendent in the Northborough/Southborough regional school district. Additionally, he has served a year as President of the Mass. Association of School Superintendents, where he has worked with various state officials.

During Tuesday's meeting, Jackson was interviewed by members of the Shawsheen Tech School Committee, as well as received questions from the public. Following the committee/public interview,

Jackson left the call while the committee voted.

Although some School Committee members were dissatisfied with the abruptness of the superintendent selection process' continuation, many members stressed that Jackson stands as the ideal candidate, despite not being long-term.

"I, too, am not happy how we came to this place, but I don't want to travel to the next place, because it would be a long, arduous process," said School Committee member Robert Peterson of Wilmington. "I think we have a candidate that suits the needs of the building right now."

Jackson was appointed as superintendent with nine votes. Lisa Puccia, a member from Tewksbury, abstained from voting.

It remains to be seen how the public will react to this decision.

Selectmen briefed on COVID-19 in town

By LIZZIE MCDERMOTT
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — On April 27, the Board of Selectmen was briefed on COVID-19 in the Town of Wilmington by Health Director Shelley Newhouse and Fire Chief and head of Crisis Management Team Bill Cavanaugh.

According to Newhouse, there are currently 34 active cases in town not affiliated with long-term care facilities, and the number tends to range from the mid-30s to 50 cases as recoveries are cleared and new cases added. She expressed Wilmington may be in a

plateau with regard to case growth, though it is difficult to tell currently.

She also added that six people are currently in quarantine, though that number would likely change "even tonight."

Newhouse also stated that AdviviaCare is currently a COVID recovery site, and that active cases at the facility would be reported to each patient's town of residence.

Town Manager Jeff Hull added that AdviviaCare had issues with staffing at the beginning of the crisis, but the situation has stabilized for the time being.

COVID | PAGE A8W

Shawsheen not renewing Principal Cook's contract

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

BILLERICA — According to an email from Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Principal Jessica Cook, the school district has decided not to renew her contract for the next school year. The news was spread first on Sunday night on social media before Cook released a statement to students and parents on Monday.

An email from Cook to Shawsheen students and families recognized the district's decision not to renew her contract for the 2020-2021 school year.

"The district has decided to go in a different direction with the leadership of the building," Cook wrote in the statement.

She announced, with a heavy heart, that her last day as principal will be June 30.

The principal went on to thank all of the students at the school for the impact that they've had on her.

"I love Shawsheen Tech and I have been more proud of being a principal for our talented students than anything else I have done or accomplished," she continued.

She shared that she believes in the future success

of her students and in the commitment of the rest of the staff to support them. Finally, Cook said that she is focused on celebrating seniors and continuing remote learning through the end of the school year.

Cook has been the principal of Shawsheen Tech for five years. She previously taught there as a Social Studies teacher. It came as a shock to many students and parents to receive the news of her non-renewal, who discussed on the Shawsheen Tech Parents Facebook page.

John Bagni, who said he's been teaching at

Shawsheen for 19 years, wrote in a comment, "I do not agree with the termination of Jess Cook. I have worked very closely with her for the past five years. She is very passionate about Vocational Education."

Members of the community have started a petition in opposition to the non-renewal of Jessica Cook's contract.

The description of the petition on Change.org reads: "As the leader of our school community, Ms. Cook has shown the dedication and ability to both continue the proud

COOK | PAGE A8W

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The Town Crier
Call: 978-658-2346
Town Crier



Town election date set for June 20

By LIZZIE MCDERMOTT
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The Wilmington Board of Selectmen has voted unanimously to move town elections to June 20.

According to Town Clerk Tina Touma-Conway, the

election, which contains no contested positions, will have both in-person and mail-in voting options. Residents can vote by mail as either an absentee or an early voter.

"Hopefully the vast majority of people who vote in this election will do so

by mail," she said.

Touma-Conway briefed the board on steps the town would take to protect both residents and poll workers. These include social distancing measures at voting locations, including having a single staff member at check-in

and check-out tables, a sanitization protocol for commonly touched surfaces, and spaced-out, outdoor lines for those waiting to vote.

Additionally, she noted that the town's usual pool

ELECTION | PAGE A8W

Middlesex District Attorney's Office launches non-emergency text line for victims

WOBURN — Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan has announced the launch of a new dedicated text line for victims. This line will provide victims with direct access to a victim witness advocate via text message. The line provides the opportunity for victims in non-emergency situations to have live interaction with an advocate in the District Attorney's Office without having to say a word.

This is a valuable tool both for individuals who may feel safer utilizing text and for young people who often prefer text to phone call. Recognizing that many victims are reaching out with questions regarding personal matters, this line provides a person-to-person connection, which can help alleviate the stress of navigating the criminal justice system.

The announcement comes during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time designated to raising

awareness of victims' rights, protections and services.

"As we continue to grapple with the COVID-19 crisis the needs of victims and vulnerable populations remain at the forefront of our work. This line, created specifically for victims or those worried about a friend, or loved one, will provide direct access to a victim witness advocate. The advocate in our office can give important information about how to apply for a restraining order, develop a safety plan or access other services. This new option, to send a text, which we have not had before, can be critical for victims who need information but may be unable to or feel unsafe calling on the phone," said District Attorney Ryan.

With the launch of the dedicated line, victims can now reach an advocate during regular office hours (8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.) via text message at 781-

281-4066. The line is not monitored 24/7 and is NOT an emergency line.

Recognizing that the criminal justice system can be complicated, advocates monitoring this line will be able to help:

- Guide those impacted by crime through the criminal justice system as the COVID-19 process continues to evolve;
- Ensure that victims of crimes understand their rights;
- Help victims of stalking and harassment file Harassment Prevention Orders;
- Provide assistance to victims of domestic violence; and
- Provide referrals to community resources and connect people to trained sexual assault and domestic violence advocates who can provide free and confidential services regarding safety, options and resources.

If individuals are in fear for their safety, they should call 911. If a victim is not in

a position to be able to speak aloud about their emergency, text 911 is also available across the Commonwealth.

"Being able to text for help or information allows victims, sheltering in place with abusive partners, to silently reach out for support, validation, and resources without alerting their abusers. During these seriously constrained times with victims locked in and resources locked down, this text line can provide a vital portal of hope and connection," Jacquelin Apsler, Executive Director of Domestic Violence Services Network, Inc.

The Middlesex District Attorney's Victim Witness Services Bureau is dedicated to ensuring that crime victims and witnesses are aware of their important entitlements and are committed to remaining available to the people of Middlesex County during this time. This line will serve new vic-

tims; victims in pending cases are encouraged to contact the victim witness advocate assigned to their case. This is not a confidential line and specific case information will not be shared via text.

Victims of domestic violence can access help 24/7 through the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) in more than 200 languages or online at <https://www.thehotline.org/help/>. Live chat services are also available.

Victims can also access SafeLink, Massachusetts' statewide 24/7 toll-free domestic violence hotline and a resource for anyone affected by domestic or dating violence. The SafeLink toll-free number is (877) 785-2020. If you are hearing-impaired, please call the SafeLink TTY number at (877) 521-2601. Advocates are bilingual in English and Spanish and have access to a service that can provide translation in more than 130 lan-

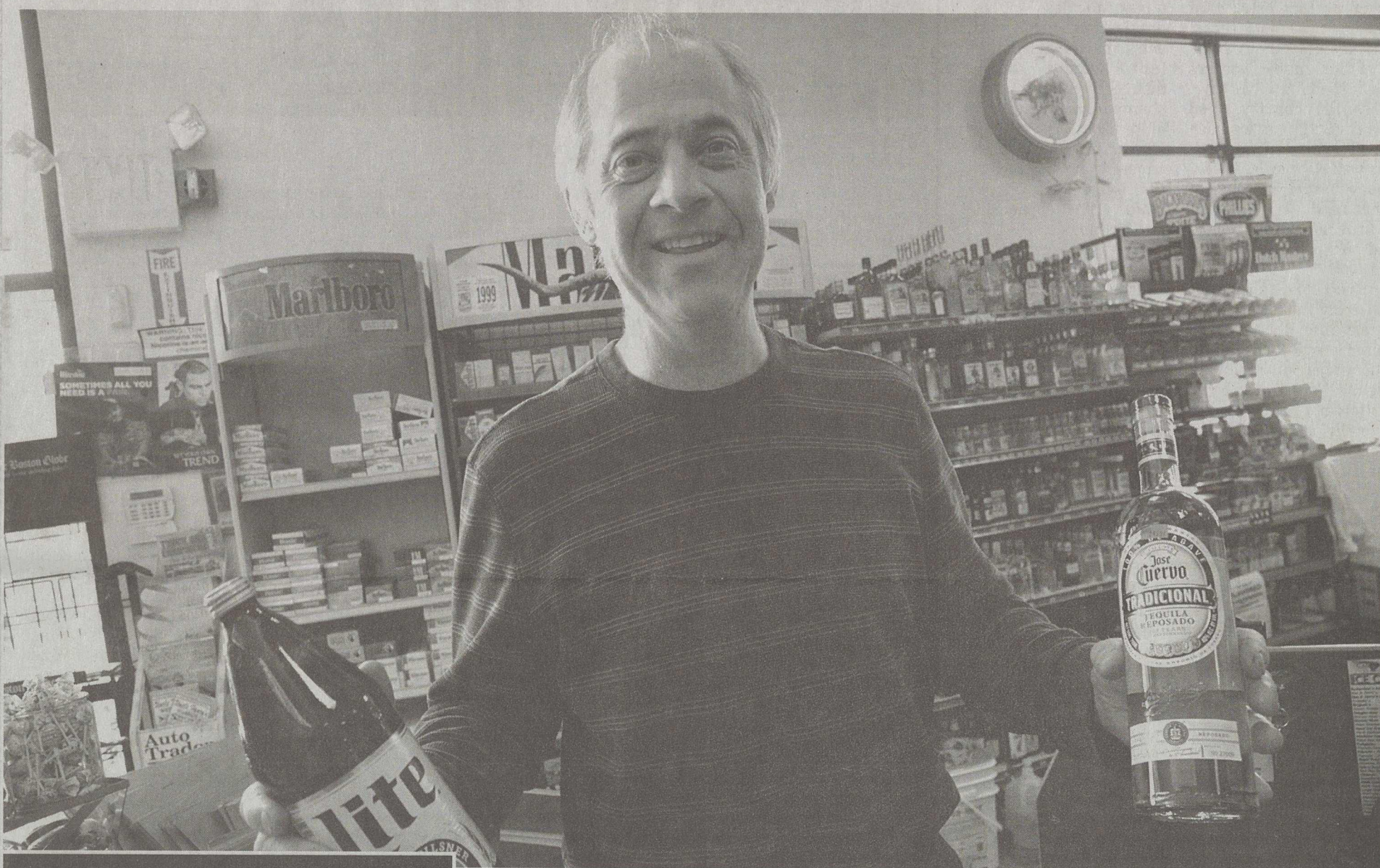
guages.

Victims of sexual violence can access help 24/7 through RAINN Hotline at 1-800-656-4673 (HOPE) in multiple languages or online at <https://www.rainn.org/>. Live chat services are also available.

Victims can also visit Jane Doe Inc. at janedoe.org/findhelp to locate the sexual assault/rape crisis center and domestic violence services near them.

Information about the bureau, victim's rights and resources and additional services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault can be found on the Middlesex District Attorney's website by clicking here.

Members of the public can continue to contact the Middlesex District Attorney's office using the main line 781-897-8300. Staff will be answering calls during regular business hours. Voicemails left on this line will be checked, and the call will be returned.



Definitely essential!

▲ Mike Elia at Elia's Country Store in Wilmington is open for business! Check out their online home cooked foods. (photo: BruceHilliard.com)

Baker-Polito administration extends non-essential business closures to May 18

BOSTON — Tuesday, the Baker-Polito Administration extended the essential services emergency order to May 18 and launched a Reopening Advisory Board that will produce a plan to the governor by May 18.

The administration also announced that the Department of Public Health's Stay At Home Advisory remains in effect and gatherings of 10 or more people remain prohibited until May 18.

Essential Services Order: Governor Charlie Baker's emergency order requiring that all businesses and organizations that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services" close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public will be extended until May 18.

Businesses and organizations not on the list of essential services are encouraged to continue operations through remote means that do not require workers, customers, or the public to enter or appear at the brick-and-mortar premises closed by the order. This order also extends the existing ban on gatherings of more than 10 people until May 18.

Stay at Home Advisory: Governor Charlie Baker announced that the Department of Public Health's stay-at-home advisory will remain in effect. Resi-

dents are strongly urged to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary person to person contact during this time period. Residents who are considered at high risk when exposed to COVID-19 should limit social interactions with other people as much as possible.

Executive Branch Employee Guidance: The Baker-Polito Administration also extended the guidance issued to Executive Branch employees on protocol during the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure state government can continue to provide key services while protecting the health and safety of the public and the Executive Branch workforce. Under the guidance, all employees performing non-core functions who are able to work remotely should continue to do so until May 18.

Reopening Advisory Board: Governor Baker announced the formation of the Reopening Advisory Board, which will be co-chaired by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. The board brings public health officials together with leaders from the business community and municipal government from across the Commonwealth.

This group is charged

with advising the administration on strategies to reopen the economy in phases based on health and safety metrics. It will meet with key stakeholders and solicit input from a variety of constituencies over the next three weeks to develop a report by May 18 that will include DPH approved workplace safety standards, industry frameworks and customer protocols and guidelines, including enforcement mechanisms and coordination with municipal leaders.

This report is due on the 18, but the administration has made clear that public health data and guidance from health care experts will dictate the timeline of the re-opening process.

The 17-member Advisory Board is composed of three public health officials, including Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Monica Bharel, three municipal officials, and 11 leaders from the business community, including MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack.

Members of the Advisory Board bring a range of perspectives to the table, such as an understanding of workplaces and workforces and insights into key areas like financial markets, education, manufacturing and transportation.

Reopening Advisory

Board members:

- Aron Ain, CEO, Kronos Inc & Ultimate Software
- Carlo Zaffanella, Vice President and General Manager, Maritime & Strategic Systems, General Dynamics Mission Systems
- Corey Thomas, CEO, Rapid 7
- Daniel Rivera, Mayor, City of Lawrence
- Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH, Massachusetts General Hospital
- Girish Navani, CEO and Co-Founder, eClinical Works
- Joe Bahena, Senior Vice President, Joseph Abboud Manufacturing
- Kathryn Burton, Chief of Staff, City of Boston
- Laurie Leshin, Ph.D., President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Linda Markham, President, Cape Air
- Mark Keroack, President & CEO, Baystate Health
- Monica Bharel, Ph.D., Commissioner, Department of Public Health
- Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor, City of Easthampton
- Pamela Everhart, Head of Regional Public Affairs and Community Relations, Fidelity Investments
- Stephanie Pollack, Transportation Secretary and CEO
- Steve DiFillippo, CEO, Davios Restaurants
- Wendy Hudson, Owner, Nantucket Book Partners

Advertisement It's Your Money by Todd Brisbois



EXTENSION FILERS SHOULD AVOID THESE ERRORS WHEN FILING TAX RETURNS

— PART II —

Just like taxpayers who file their taxes by the April deadline, those who filed an extension should also do everything to make sure their tax return is complete and accurate.

Mistakes made when figuring credits: Taxpayers can make mistakes when figuring things like their Earned Income Tax Credit and Child and Dependent Care Credit. Taxpayers should follow the instructions carefully, and double check the information they enter when filing electronically.

Incorrect bank account numbers: Taxpayers who are due a refund should choose direct deposit as this will get their money right in their bank account. However, the IRS cautions taxpayers to use the right routing and account numbers on the tax return. It's a good idea to double and triple check the numbers they enter.

Unsigned forms: An unsigned tax return isn't valid. Both spouses must sign a joint return.

An expired ITIN: The IRS treats a return filed with an expired Individual Tax Identification Number as filed on time, but there may be delays in processing it. Taxpayers will receive a notice explaining that an ITIN must be current before the IRS will pay a refund. Once the taxpayer renews the ITIN, the IRS will process the tax return and pay any allowed refund.

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History:

Wamesit Village was once a part of Tewksbury

By CAPT. LARZ NEILSON
Founder of the Town Crier

The American Indians who inhabited southern New England were Algonquins. Their language was called Algonquin, a tongue common throughout the region. Some of the early Puritan writers called it Algonquian.

Those early writers sometimes referred to them as Aberginians, possibly a variation of Aborigine.

West of the Algonquins, in New York state of today were the "Six Nations," with the easternmost being the Mohawks, a warlike tribe which on occasion made forays into what is now New England.

Traditionally, Massachusetts takes its name from Indians who were living in the "Blue Hill" south of Boston. North of Boston there were several Indian areas, one of which was Saugus (or Saugust). Lynn, Saugus, and probably part of Wakefield were in that area.

North of that were the Cochichewick Indians, occupying Andover and North Andover. To the south, Massachusetts Indians were as far as Marshfield.

Boston was the home of the Shawmuts, and the Mishawams lived in the Charlestown area and northerly, possibly into the Woburn area.

Northerly of Woburn, in an area of which Billerica is the center were the Shawshins, and northerly of that was Wamesit.

Wamesit perhaps means "there is room for all," according to Native American Placenames of the United States, by William Bright.

Captain Daniel Gookin of Cambridge described Wamesit, in 1674. There were, he said "fifteen families," which he computed to mean "seventy-five souls."

In the 1660's Wamesit had an area of about 500 acres as a reservation, in what is now Lowell, but which was, first Billerica, and then

Tewksbury. The Wamesit village was easterly of the Concord River, and southerly of the Merrimack.

The land is fertile, he said, and is an excellent fishing place. The variety of fish, in their season included salmon, bass, shad, lamprey eels, sturgeon and others. Many Indians came to the site during the fishing season.

Gookin wrote that if the Indians could be diligent and industrious, they might get much for their fish, especially fresh salmon, which are of esteem and good price at Boston during the season.

The Indians, he said, "might furnish the market fully, being at a small distance. And divers other sort of fish they might salt or pickle as sturgeon or bass, which would be much to their profit."

"But notwithstanding divers arguments used to persuade them, and some orders made to encourage them, yet their idleness and improvidence doth hitherto prevail."

The ruler was Numphow, "of the blood of the Chief Sachems," and his son was Samuel, who could speak, read and write English and Indian competently. He had been educated at a school for the Indians.

Once a year an English magistrate, beginning in May, kept court at the site of the Wamesit village. He was accompanied by the Rev. John Eliot, who had studied the Algonquin language, and had translated the Bible for the Indians. Copies of his Bible, in Algonquin, still exist. It was the first Bible published in North America.

The Rev. Mr. Eliot took advantage of the opportunity to preach, not only to the local inhabitants, but also to as many strange Indians as could be persuaded to hear him.

Gookin describes the site as being "an ancient capital seat of the Indians. He related a meeting with Wanalancet.

"May 5, 1674. According to our usual custom, Mr. Eliot and myself took our journey to Wamesit or Pawtucket; and arriving there that evening, Mr. Eliot preached to the Indians out of Matt. XXII, 1-14, the parable of the marriage of the king's son.

"We met at the wigwam of one called Wanalancet, about two miles from the town, near Pawtucket Falls, and bordering on the Merrimack River. This person, Wanalancet, is the eldest son of old Passaconaway, the Chief Sachem of the Pawtucket. He is a sober and grave person and of years between fifty and sixty. He hath been always loving and friendly to the English.

"Many endeavours have been used for several years to gain this sachem to embrace the Christian religion; but he hath stood off from time to time and not yielded up personally, though for four years past, he hath been willing to hear the Word of God preached, and to keep the Sabbath.

"A great reason that hath kept him off, I conceive, hath been the indisposition and averseness of his chief men and relations to pray to God; which he foresaw would desert him in case he turned Christian. But at this time, May 6, 1674, it pleased God so to influence and overcome his heart, that after some deliberation and serious pause, he stood up and made a speech to this effect thankful for your pains.

"I must acknowledge I have all my days used to pass in an old canoe (alluding to his frequent custom to pass in a canoe upon the river) and now you exhort me to change and leave my old canoe, and embark in a new canoe, to which I have hitherto been unwilling; but now I yield up myself to your advice, and enter into a new canoe, and do engage to pray to God hereafter."

The above, written by Gookin, was quoted by the Rev. Henry Hazen of Billerica, in his 1882 history of that town. Hazen went on to describe further, also taken from Gookin.

There were present, Gookin said, some persons of quality. He named Richard Daniel of Billerica, and Lieut. Henchman of Chelmsford besides brother Eliot and myself, with sundry others, English and Indians.

Desired Brother Eliot to tell the Sachem that when he went in his old canoe, he went in a quiet stream, but the end thereof was death and destruction of soul and body. Now he went in a new canoe, perhaps he would meet with storms and trials; but yet, he would be encouraged to persevere, for the end of the voyage would be everlasting rest.

Gookin's account of the conversion of the Indians of Wamesit ends:

"In this town they observe the same civil and religious orders as in other towns, and have a constable and other officers. The people of Wamesit suffered more in the late war with the Mohawks than any other praying town of Indians, for divers of their people were slain, others wounded; and some carried into captivity; which providence hath much hindered the prosperous state of this place.

Wanalancet, he who was

converted on May 6, 1674, was credited with the building of a fort on "Fort Hill," wrote Rev. Hazen. And tradition seems to place the log chapel in which Mr. Eliot preached to the Indians as being "very near the fine edifice of the Eliot Church."

In the summer of 1675, at the time of King Philip's War, the praying Indians of Wamesit retired to the wilderness of Penacook (Concord), New Hampshire, to avoid being involved in the war.

In September a company of one hundred (white) men were sent to ascertain the position of Wanalancet and his people, in regard to the war.

The Wamesits retired into the forest, on hearing of the approach of the company. Their deserted wigwams were wantonly burned.

The sachem did not forget the counsel of his fa-

ther (Passaconway) and restrained his young warriors, who were eager to attack the white men.

Wanalancet led his people further into the wilderness, and they spent the winter at the headwaters of the Connecticut River. The next year they were lured to Dover, where they were unjustly imprisoned.

They were soon set at liberty and returned to their Merrimack home. After the conclusion of the war Wanalancet visited the home of the Rev. Mr. Fiske of Chelmsford.

Wanalancet asked as to whether or not Chelmsford had suffered much. The clergyman replied that they had not, and devoutly thanked God.

"Me next" said Wanalancet. The implication, of course, was that he had restrained the Indians under his control.

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Town election date changed again, to Tuesday, June 16

TWEEKSBURY — The Tewksbury Board of Selectmen voted for the second time to reschedule the April 4, 2020 annual town election. The new date of the election is Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The voter registration deadline is now Friday, June 5, 2020. The ballot remains unchanged. Any absentee ballots already received or returned for this election will still be valid. If you have already received your absentee ballot, you do not need a new one.

Under the Massachusetts Constitution, absentee ballots are available for all elections to voters who are disabled, out of town on election day, or have a religious belief preventing them from voting at their polling place.

A new law has been passed clarifying that any person taking precaution related to COVID-19 in response to a declared state of emergency or from guidance from a medical professional, local or state health official, or any civil authority shall be deemed to be unable by reason of physical disability to cast their vote in person at a polling location.

You qualify for an absentee ballot due to physical disability if:

- You are ill;
- You are confined to your home because you may transmit infection; or
- You cannot leave your home because you are a member of a population vulnerable to illness;
- You are staying in your home or avoiding your polling place as a precautionary measure in response to COVID-19.

The law has also been updated to allow early voting by mail for any election held on or before June 30. Early voting by mail is similar to absentee voting, but unlike absentee voting, no excuse is required.

Absentee Ballot Applications are available to be downloaded and printed, but you may also request an absentee ballot by writing a letter to your clerk's office, if you do not have access to a printer. Be sure to include your name and address, the election(s) for which you are requesting a ballot, and your signature.

If you need the ballot mailed somewhere other than your home, be sure to provide that address. Applications must be received by noon the day before

the election. (June 15)

Early Ballot Applications are available for upcoming local and special elections now. As with absentee ballot applications, any written request is acceptable.

Completed absentee and early ballot applications must be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office.

Applications may be mailed: Town Clerk, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

Hand Delivered: to the drop box outside the main entrance to Town Hall

Faxed: 978-851-8610 or

Emailed: townclerk@tewbksbury-ma.gov. If you are emailing your application, you must be able to send an image of the application as an attachment, either by scanning it or by taking a picture of it. A hand-written signature must be visible.

All mail-in ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by the close of polls on June 16, 2020 - a postmark is not sufficient. Absentee ballots may be mailed or hand-delivered by a family member. Please be sure to allow enough time for the mailing of your application and your ballot.



Chamber Corner

Wilmington/Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce
226 Lowell St., Suite B4A 978-657-7211
Wilmington, MA 01887 www.WilmingtonTewksburyChamber.org



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InterlinkONE has been fortunate enough to work with all sorts of companies, big and/or small, including the likes of Fireman's Fund, Cisco Systems, Yale University, and numerous Fortune 20 Financial Services and Pharmaceutical

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This member profile is provided by the Wilmington/Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce. To have your business highlighted here contact Executive Director Nancy Vallee at 978-657-7211.

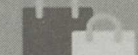
WAYS TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS DURING CORONAVIRUS

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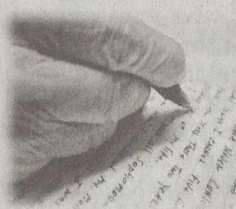
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~Recycling Tip of the Week~

- Clear plastic lids — rinse and recycle
- Styrofoam, black plastic dish, paper food box-go in the trash
- Opt out of plastic utensils — use your own.
- Wood chopsticks can be put in your compost or trash

OPINION



Letters to the editor

Time to tighten our belts

By **MATTHEW ADELMAN**
President, National Newspaper Association

(Matthew Adelman, publisher of the Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, is the president of the National Newspaper Association, which represents community newspapers — such as this one — across the U.S. The Daily Times Chronicle is a member of the National Newspaper Association.)

Newspapers in the United States have traveled rough seas to the First Amendment freedoms we enjoy today. From the colonial Stamp Act through wartime censorship to today, when thousands of newspapers were slammed with the public health emergency known as COVID-19, people who work for newspapers have never had completely smooth sailing.

Now most of the businesses that advertise with us are shut down. The pipeline to make our payroll shut down with them. People are restlessly waiting in their locked-down homes for us to bring the news nonetheless.

Across the country, journalists and the thousands of people it takes to let them do their work — from publishers to ad sales people to printers — are figuring out ways to keep the news coming. We do our work as bravely as we can, even when we, too, are masked up and dodging possibly lethal infections.

A disheartening chord is sounding here and there across America's mournful song about this tragic era: why should Americans still support newspapers?

Some in our business don't like the very notion of "media." We newspaper folk argue that "media" is not us. We are the "press,"

the ones mentioned in the Constitution. Even so, we know some people don't trust even us, though we work and play and worship and vote in our own communities. Distrust and dissonance are making this tough era even tougher.

Let us speak our piece here.

We are not driven by ratings. We cover events and issues and write the news as best we can in the worst of times. We do have to have revenue to pay people, just as the even braver front-line hospitals, ambulance companies and urgent care centers do. We are large and small, owned by local owners or sometimes people from far away. But in most small communities, the newspaper is a hometown thing. We're here to cover the news, love us or hate us.

Through our national organizations, we're asking Congress to give us a little support. We need those federal advertising messages to go into the local paper, not onto Facebook or Instagram. We need the short-term payroll loans to pay our staff and cover printing costs for a while.

If these are bailouts or handouts, they are no more so for us than for the millions of other businesses covered by Congress's \$2 trillion stimulus bill. Yes, we are worried about federal debt. But if the economy collapses, the debt will surely spiral out of control.

We need to get through this time and tighten our belts, just as we have through two World Wars, terrorist attacks and other epidemics.

Are we worth the investment? You tell us. Without journalism, how does this bold 244-year experiment in self-government continue to work? We aren't perfect, nor is democracy. But it is the best we have.

and they spend all their time together. Crake's friendship with Jimmy seems to be based more out of pity than admiration, and perhaps also because Jimmy's clearly no competition for him.

During an online porn session, they see a photo of a young girl who captivates them. Later, as they begin their work lives, Crake finds (or manufactures) the same or a similar girl whom he names Oryx (an extinct bird).

As Jimmy discovers what Crake and his co-workers have been creating in their labs, and the reader learns more about the strange non-human creatures Jimmy lives with as the novel opens, a disease causing almost immediate death ravages the world.

By **PAUL J. ANDREWS**
andrews@massupt.org
Mass. Ass'n. of School Superintendents
Member of Board of Winchester Hospital

A recent evening was one of the warmer nights recently and as I looked out the door of my home, I saw a neighbor and his family having a great time in a scene that was like a Vermont picture. They had a small brick fireplace in the middle of their lawn, giving off the glare to a nearby picnic table where the family was having a great time enjoying each other's company (properly spaced) and not having to cope with lines at restaurants, as they adjust to the new normal.

Small business concerns

Not sure about you but each day I pass a business, I question whether they will be there at the end of this pandemic. Restaurants and stores that were the key neighborhood stores have cut hours, employees, salaries and hours to remain open for their customers. I for one value these wonderful folks who have not abandoned their customers but know they are "hurting" to put it mildly. A co-owner of one of these stores said that "this is awful and business is just so bad." I felt

his pain and that of his wonderful staff.

Many stores seem to have made a decision to close for the duration of the pandemic and I understand that as a result of the governor's actions but so much appreciated the one's that provided a take-out service soon after closure, again on behalf of their customers. This has happened to so many of our local restaurants for which we should be so grateful.

Local educators face changes

While we have all talked about the great credit given to our hospital staff, fire and police departments, let me give a rant to the great work of all local school superintendents, principals, teachers, nurses, custodians, cafeteria and other school staff in the Town Crier area for their incredible jobs in working in this new normal, whether it be in the preparation of food, cleaning our school buildings or for many teaching our students either via phone or on a remote connection to students and parents.

For many students, remote use comes like second nature but not in doing what they are being called to do these days in presenting curriculum that fits the grade level of their students in the most appro-

priate way via "learning packets" or online with their students. So many parents have commented to me "this must be so difficult to be teaching at home," while many have their own children and other family members around them.

This is so true but our educational leaders and teachers are tenacious in making sure they do the best they can under the circumstances. This is not a simple process so our curriculum leaders also need a rave, as they work to assist staff as needed. This is not the same as classroom learning but every effort is being made to make sure learning does not stop through this process.

A rave also is extended to parents as their days are made more confusing with home instruction or remote learning as many parents find technology just a bit confusing, while for others they do this every day. This is going to become the new normal. Notice I said "new" not necessarily better.

Difficult predictions

I am asked all the time when I feel the governor's edict of staying inside as much as possible, the closure of restaurants, businesses, etc. will end and I can truly say, I do not know but feel that there will be a major push to make Memorial Day a

"new beginning" but at the same time the governor and his medical advisors will need to see the medical statistics showing a drop in deaths, COVID-19 diagnosis cases and more testing programs in place. I feel the governor's calls to date have been on target as will be the next one.

JUST A NOTE

One comment that I wanted to make is that the birthday celebration for Pat Dever was held this week at the home of her daughter Karen, a well known Winchester resident.

Now for some Morning Pulse extractions: States ease health plan eligibility requirements for furloughed workers; Ireland sees economy shrinking at least 10 percent this year; Nearly 40 percent of Americans have no savings right now; Higher education groups call for extended student debt relief; Coronavirus will make America's cities feel the pressure of pension debt; A tsunami of bankruptcies are about to wash away America's retail sector; Dentists and their patients are feeling the pain from the shutdown and Apple reopening first store outside of China closed by the coronavirus.

PLEASE BE SAFE and feel free to contact me at andrews@massupt.org

Tew-Mac Tavern at country club closing permanently

To the editor,
We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy through these challenging times. We would like to thank all of you who have reached out to support us during this shutdown. This has been a very challenging time for individuals, families and businesses, and especially for us in the hospitality industry.

We have had to take a hard look at what the Tew-Mac Tavern would look like in the future with the restrictions and new regulations that we have learned will now be required. With

tighter restrictions and the timing of the shutdown we were very uncertain as to how the Tavern would emerge.

After painful consideration to our staff, our loyal customers and the community we have decided to close the Tew-Mac Tavern permanently. This decision did not come lightly, and was assisted by our many clients looking to reschedule previously booked events that were cancelled. It made sense to use the Tavern as event space to help our brides, clients and guests looking for the

much-needed event space.

The newly launched "Magnolia Room" with private entry, outdoor patio and the same great views of the golf course will be a great addition to our award-winning Event Facility.

All of us at Tewksbury Country Club are saddened by the closing of the restaurant but remain positive and encouraged for what the future may bring and hope that with your support, new growth and change will flourish.

All Gift Cards that were intended for use in the Tavern can be redeemed

in the Golf Shop or used towards private events. Refunds will be honored upon request.

We cannot express our gratitude for allowing us to serve you for the last 17 year and especially thank our wonderful staff and customers for your support, your stories and your laughter that helped make the Tew-Mac Tavern such a special place. Stay safe, stay positive, stay healthy and we will get through this together.

Sincerely,
Marc Ginsburg & Family

Book Stew Reviews

'Oryx and Crake' by Margaret Atwood

By **EILEEN MACDOUGALL**

Why read a dystopian novel during a pandemic? Three reasons: it was a gift from someone whose taste I appreciate; I never read book jackets first; and I really respect author Margaret Atwood (Handmaid's Tale).

The first of a trilogy, this 2003 story set in the seemingly near future is told by Jimmy, an average Brit guy and fairly mediocre high school student, whose distinguishing characteristic is that his mother abandoned the family when he was a young teen to become an anti-government activist.

At school, Jimmy meets a brilliant new boy he nicknames Crake, after an extinct animal in an online game they play,

Rep. Moulton requests PPE for defense workers

SALEM — Congressman Seth Moulton (D-MA) has asked the members of the National Defense Industry Association's members to supply the nation's defense workers with personal protective equipment so they can safely carry out their essential work supporting the nation's defense. Moulton sent a formal request for information to the group earlier this week.

The National Defense Industry Association is a group of 1,700 corporate and 70,000 individual members. According to its mission statement, the NDIA exists "to promote the best policies, practices, products, and technology for warfighters and others who ensure the safety and security of the nation."

It champions issues that contribute to the strength, resiliency, and capacity of the defense industrial base. It builds a vigorous, responsive, and collaborative community in support of defense and national security. And it convenes legal and ethical forums for the exchange of ideas, information, viewpoints, and capabilities.

This is the latest in a series of steps Moulton has taken to protect essential workers. Weeks prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, Moulton wrote the heads of the nation's Uniformed Services, with a request for the military's plans to protect service members

from the virus.

Moulton has still not received a substantive response from any of the services housed within the Department of Defense, led by Secretary Mark Esper. The United States Coast Guard, which is not part of the Department of Defense, is the only service to respond with a substantive plan.

Moulton acknowledges the shortage of PPE is in large part due to the president's failure to lead in the crisis by using the Defense Production Act. In an op-ed published today in The Hill, Moulton asks Americans and business leaders to help fill the void.

The congressman also weighed in through a column published today in The Bulkwork about the president's failed leadership and its consequences.

"People are dying because of it," Moulton said, adding that Trump "certainly has the blood of fellow Americans on his hands because of his total failure as commander-in-chief."

Earlier this month, after the death of a Salem resident who worked at Market Basket in Salem and Walmart in Lynn, Moulton asked Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker to designate grocery store workers in the state as emergency personnel so that they could receive priority testing and access to protective equipment.

The day after Moulton's request, the governor designated grocery store workers as eligible for COVID-19 screenings at priority testing centers created for emergency workers across the state. The governor also quickly designated tow truck drivers and other essential workers for priority testing after Moulton's push.

Moulton partnered with Representatives Tom Mil-
anowski (D-NJ), Brian Fitz-

patrick (R-PA), Seth and Don Bacon (R-NE) to lead a call from more than 150 members of Congress to the Federal Transit Administration asking the government to provide PPE and guidance to transit workers who are risking exposure to COVID 19 to transport health care workers, grocery store workers first responders and other essential personnel to their essential jobs throughout the state.

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Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

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OBITUARIES

Louise E. (Birkle) Anderson

Family will hold private service

Louise E. (Birkle) Anderson, age 70, of Wilmington, passed away on April 22, 2020.

Louise was the beloved wife of the late Peter G. Anderson, devoted mother of Gregory Anderson of Rocky Hill, CT and Jennifer Contrada and her husband Jonathan of Wilmington, loving "Nana" of Cailin, Kylie, Parker and Chace, cherished daughter of the late Jane (Scannell) and Murrell Birkle of Wilmington, dear sister of Ruth Gronemeyer of Wilmington, sister-in-law of Jeffrey Anderson and his wife Diane of Rockland, Bradley Anderson and his wife Karen of North Hills, CA and

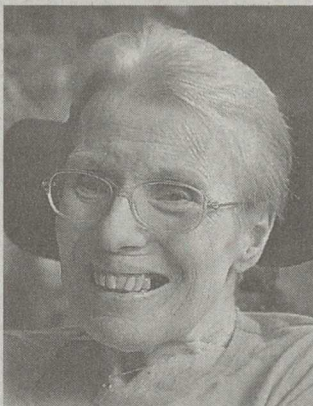
Christopher Anderson and his wife Jennifer of Gilford, NH.

Louise is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews including a special bond with Eric, Michael and Jacob Gronemeyer.

Those who met Louise will always remember her beautiful smile and her fairytale romance with her beloved husband, Peter. They are now reunited in Heaven.

Due to the current situation of the coronavirus and for everyone's safety, the Anderson family has decided to hold a private service at this time.

Memorial donations in Louise's name may be



made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 101 1st Ave., Waltham, MA 02451.

Funeral Arrangements are under the direction of the Nichols Funeral Home, Wilmington. www.nicholsfuneralhome.com

Helen Susan (Lane) Carver

Worked at the Flight Surgeon's Office

Helen Susan (Lane) Carver, age 92, a long-time resident of Wilmington, passed away on April 25, 2020, at the Winchester Hospital.

Helen was born on June 22, 1927, in Woburn; she was the cherished daughter of the late Albert and Susan Lane. Helen was raised and educated in Wilmington where she was always active in her community.

She attended the Little Red West School, she was active in the 4-H Club where she excelled in cooking and sewing and won many exhibit ribbons throughout the years. Helen was also a charter member of the Girls Rainbow Club and a member of the Wilmington United Methodist Church from a very young age.

Helen went on to graduate from Wilmington High School with the Class of 1945 and spent her summers during high school working with the patients at Tewksbury State Hospital.

Following graduation, Helen, took a job at John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company in Boston where she worked as a Comptometer and IBM Operator from June of 1945 until May of 1952.

Helen married the "love of her life" Harold L. Carver on June 1, 1952, in Wilmington. The couple moved to the Sampson Air Force Base in Geneva, New York. Helen went to work as a typist for Shuron Optical Company in Geneva before landing a job at the Flight Surgeon's Office on Sampson Air Force Base. Helen absolutely loved working in the Flight Surgeon's Office from 1953-1955 where she made many new friends.

Upon their return to Wilmington, Helen and Harold soon became parents to son Steven and daughter Susan. Helen loved being a mother; she showered her children with unconditional love and devotion. Helen was involved her in children's many school and

extra curricular activities; she was active in girl scouts, cub scouts and was a Sunday School teacher at the Wilmington United Methodist Church.

When Helen became a grandma and great-grandma her world became even brighter; she attended countless school and sporting events for the grandchildren throughout the years and she was always their biggest cheerleader.

After her children were grown, Helen went back to work in the Wilmington school cafeteria from 1971 until 1976. Helen made many friends with her co-workers as well as the students.

In 1977, Helen became involved with the Avon Company selling cosmetics; she was the local "Avon lady" whom everyone loved. Helen enjoyed introducing new products, hosting in home parties, attending Avon meetings and meeting new friends throughout the years.

Helen continued to be very active in the community throughout her life, she was a member of the WSCS and the Rebecca Sarah Circle at church. She was actively involved in two club groups — the Golden AGET, and one that dated back to grammar school and they called themselves "Friends Forever."

Helen loved attending the Wilmington Senior Center where she was involved in their many activities and field trips.

In her spare time, Helen loved to travel; she did a lot of bus tours and enjoyed them all. She loved her music, especially the oldies and old country western music. Helen looked forward to her trips to York Beach in Maine and her church suppers that she attended everywhere. She loved flowers and decorating her home for the various seasons and holidays.

Helen will be fondly remembered as a lovely lady, with a great smile and endearing personality. She was always so kind



and caring towards others and beamed with pride as she spoke of her family.

Helen was very active at the Wilmington United Methodist Church and was a loyal friend and neighbor to many people throughout the years. She was truly "one of a kind" and she will forever be in the hearts of those she loved.

Helen was the beloved wife of Harold L. Carver, devoted mother of Steven L. Carver and his wife Louise of Derry, NH and Susan L. Dodier and her husband Dennis of Moultonborough, NH.

Loving "Grammy" of Amy Kincaid and her husband Christopher, Jennifer Bishop, Amanda Jackson, Steven Carver, Jr., Andrew T. Carver, Christine Christophersen and her husband Adam and great-grandchildren Zachary, Tanner, Monroe and Lachlan.

Cherished daughter of the late Albert W. Sr. and Susie (Sivacek) Lane, dear sister of the late Robert and Albert Lane, Jr.

Helen is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Due to the current situation of the coronavirus and for everyone's safety, the Carver family has decided to do a private service at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Helen's memory may be made to the Wilmington United Methodist Church, 87 Church St., Wilmington, MA 01887.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Nichols Funeral Home, Wilmington, MA. www.nicholsfuneralhome.com

Louis C. Evangelista

Served in US Navy aboard USS Allen Sumner

Louis C. Evangelista, age 81, a resident of Tewksbury for 52 years, passed away at Lawrence General Hospital on Friday, April 24, 2020.

He was the beloved husband of Geraldine (Mendousa) Evangelista, with whom he would have celebrated 58 years of marriage this coming May.

Born in Arlington on March 12, 1939, he was the son of the late Vincent and Elsie (Peluso) Evangelista. Louis was raised in Winchester, and graduated from Winchester High School.

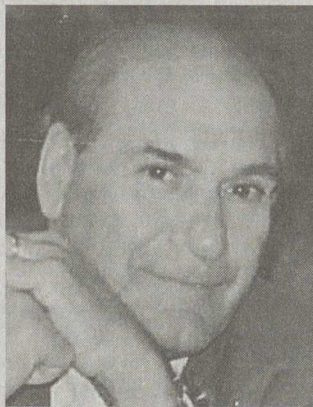
In 1957, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served aboard the USS Allen M. Sumner.

Prior to his retirement he served as Director of Laundry Service at Winchester Hospital.

Louis resided in Medford until moving to Tewksbury in 1968.

He enjoyed spending time with his family with trips to Disney World, Hampton Beach, or a gathering at his home. He also enjoyed coaching his sons in baseball and continued his passion with his grandsons.

In addition to his wife, he is survived his children, Susan McNeil and her husband Mark of Tewksbury, Cheryl Evangelista of Derry, NH, James L. Evangelista and his wife Joanna, and Joseph L. Evangelista and his wife Deborah, all of Tewksbury; his grandchildren, Brian Evangelista, Vincent, Brianna, Adrianna, and John Neill, Stephen McNeill, Taylor McNeill, Stephanie, Brandon and Robert Evangelista, Seanna Lemos, Nicolette and Cole Evangelista; his great grandchildren, Leah Anderson and Elena Lemos; sister-in-law, Joanne Drake and her husband Frank; his brother-in-law, Joseph Mendousa and his wife Mary.



Louis was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Joseph and Jennie Mendousa, and his sister-in-law, Deborah Mendousa.

Due to current public health circumstances, all services for Louis are private.

Expressions of sympathy and support may be mailed to Farmer & Dee Funeral Home, 16 Lee Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876. Attn: Evangelista Family or by leaving a condolence message at his online obituary at www.farmeranddee.com

Alfred T. O'Connor

Served in the National Guard

Alfred T. O'Connor of Wilmington, age 89, passed away April 22, 2020 at Care One in Wilmington.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Janet (Colucci) O'Connor, and their son, Thomas M. O'Connor.

He was a devoted husband for 63 years and took excellent care of Janet as her health failed. He loved his son, Tom, and was a proud Papa to his beloved grandchildren, Alyssa and Camron and delighted in seeing them and attending their activities.

Alfred had a big personality and enjoyed life. He was a character, and a jokester, but was also kind and giving.

As a young man, he and his family worked summers at the Mount Washington Hotel, where he was a soda jerk making ice cream sundaes and shakes and later on working at a horse ranch, grooming and walking horses.

He was a member of the Charlestown High hockey team. He served in the National Guard and, while there, learned to fly a plane. He later purchased a plane with his brother Chuck and flew out of the TewMac airport in Tewksbury.

Most of his adult life, he worked in insurance, eventually retiring as a Vice President.

Alfred was a founding

member of the Father Edmund W. Croke Council No. 4982 of the Knights of Columbus and recently was awarded with the council's Lifetime Achievement Award. He was very active in the Knights where he achieved the ranks of 4th degree, Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator and District Deputy.

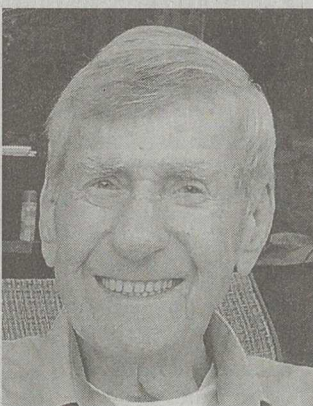
He officiated at the degree ceremonies and prided himself in memorizing his parts. He was a member of St Thomas of Villanova parish and was a CCD teacher for many years.

He loved gardening, flying, golfing, and putting around his pine grove. He could sit for hours listening to the Red Sox or Patriots as he gazed at the sun shining over his pines.

He had a beautiful voice and loved to sing Frank Sinatra's "I Did it My Way" and as a nod to his Humble Al nickname "I'm Just too Good to Be True."

He was predeceased by his mother Margaret, father Charles Sr., sisters, Marjorie Hemenway and Marion Tremont, brothers, Charles, Herbert, James and Roderick O'Connor, and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Virginia and Albert Salera.

He leaves his grandchildren, Alyssa and Camron O'Connor and his daughter-in-law, Michelle O'Connor of Marshfield. His niece Diane Clifton and her husband, James,



of Wilmington and his nephew David Salera and his wife, Lori of Nottingham, NH, his sister-in-law Jane O'Connor, and many cousins, nieces and nephews, friends, and neighbors.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Alfred's memory can be made to the Knights of Columbus Father Edmund W. Croke Council No. 4982, PO Box 368, Wilmington, MA 01887.

Due to the current situation with the coronavirus and for the safety of everyone, the O'Connor family has decided to hold a private service at this time. A Memorial Mass for Alfred will be held at a later date; please follow our website for updated information at www.nicholsfuneralhome.com

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Nichols Funeral Home, Wilmington.

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O'Leary has hands blessed before first clinical rotation

MANCHESTER, NH — Saint Anselm College sophomore nursing student Holly O'Leary of Tewksbury joined fellow student nurses in the Abbey Church for a blessing before beginning clinical placements. The Blessing of the Hands Ceremony held on Jan. 24 is a college tradition that symbolically and lit-

erally pays honor to the hands of nursing students.

O'Leary, along with 96 other future nurses representing eight states received the blessing of hands, marking the beginning of their clinical rotations through Saint Anselm College's nursing program.

To be eligible for this

honor, a student must be in good academic standing and have completed three semesters of a liberal arts nursing curriculum.

The nursing students were joined by faculty, family, and friends, listening to prayer and reflection. Father Mathias Durette, O.S.B., presided over the blessing.

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▲ Plenty of people out looking to enjoy nature at Harold Parker — while social distancing, of course.

(Courtesy photo)

So many visitors at Harold Parker State Forest

With the COVID-19 pandemic keeping people at home, it's no wonder that folks are looking for fresh air and a little exercise in the great outdoors. Harold Parker has over 3,000 acres in the towns of Andover, North Andover, North Reading, and Middleton. Visit DCR's website for specifics at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-conservation-recreation>

While DCR has closed

many parking lots to help keep large groups from congregating, it is still possible to enjoy the Forest while maintaining social distancing. The Friends have marked a number of trails, so you are always sure to find your way by following the colored blazes and directional arrows. To keep the Forest a safe and attractive place to hike, bike, and walk the dog, please be prepared carry in/carry out — pick

up after your dog and take the bags home to dispose of properly. And if you bring in water bottles or soda cans, power bars or snacks in wrappers, take it all home as well.

Interested in joining the Friends? Learn more about what we do by visiting our website at www.friends-of-haroldparker.org. We have a number of projects planned for the late spring and summer, when perhaps once again it is safe to

meet in groups. We would welcome your participation.

If you have been to HPSF recently and have comments, plus or minus, about your experience, please let us know! If you want to share photos, let us know if we may post them on our website. You may send the images to info@haroldparker.org.

Enjoy your visit, stay safe, and let us hear from you!

Baker-Polito administration announces federal approval to assist National School Lunch program participants

BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration announced that it received federal approval to promote increased food security for families who participate in the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program (NSLP) through an initiative called Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT.

As of October 2019, more than 500,000 students receive free or reduced-price meals through the NSLP. Families receiving P-EBT will get a payment equal \$5.70 per student per day of school closure through this new initiative, bringing more than \$200 million in federal dollars to the state.

"DTA has been pursuing all available tools and resources to support individuals and families impacted by this public health crisis. In light of school closures, the approval of this collaborative initiative adds another critical tool to the state's effort to leverage federal funds, promote food security, and provide additional food assistance to students and their families.

This initiative will also bring close to \$200 million into the Commonwealth's economy, supporting our local grocery stores, corner stores, and their employees," said Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) Commissioner Amy Kershaw.

"I'm happy to be working across agencies to get these additional benefits to eligible students' families," Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley said. "This will supplement the great work that districts and other organizations are already doing to provide grab-and-go

meals to students, and I know that many families' needs have increased as a result of the pandemic."

P-EBT is administered by DTA and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Funds through the program will be issued in the coming weeks, beginning with households with active Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cases. Nearly half of the households who will receive assistance are SNAP recipients.

DTA and DESE are working with local school districts to provide P-EBT benefits to families who would have received free or reduced-priced meals. More information on when and how benefits will be issued will be shared soon.

The Administration is partnering with Project Bread and the Shah Family Foundation to share information and resources with households who will be receiving P-EBT. Information about P-EBT can be found at: Mass.gov/p-ebt. The Shah Foundation will be setting up a P-EBT page with additional information. For questions about P-EBT or other food access resources, call Project Bread's FoodSource hotline at (800) 645-8333.

"We know we need big solutions to solve a crisis of this size. P-EBT is a great example and we applaud our leaders here in Massachusetts and DTA for taking action so more than 500,000 kids can buy food that will help keep them healthy during the crisis," said Erin McAleer, President of Project Bread.

"We are proud to partner with Governor Baker and

his administration to support families in accessing healthy food for their children during this challenging time. Every child deserves daily nutritious meals — whether school is in session or not — and we know now more than ever that this is critical to building strong, resilient communities," said Jill Shah, President of the Shah Family Foundation said.

Since the beginning of this public health crisis, the weekly average number of SNAP applications received has increased by nearly 400 percent. The Administration remains committed to supporting food security and nutrition for Massachusetts residents. P-EBT builds on DTA and DESE's ongoing efforts to promote food security for families and children who have been impacted by COVID-19, including:

- Setting up more than 1,500 grab and go meal sites at schools across the Commonwealth

- Issuing emergency SNAP benefits to more than 240,000 households to bring all SNAP recipients to their maximum benefit amount, bringing more than \$40 million into the state

- Streamlining SNAP application processes and extending certification periods

- Pursuing the opportunity to enable SNAP recipients to make online EBT food purchases

DTA assists and empowers low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long term economic self-sufficiency. DTA serves one in nine residents of the Commonwealth with

direct economic assistance and food assistance, as well as workforce training opportunities.

Learn more: <https://www.mass.gov/DTA/COVID-19>

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is committed to preparing all students for success after high school. The Department's work includes licensing educators, distributing state and federal education money, helping districts implement learning standards, overseeing statewide standardized tests, monitoring schools and districts, and convening districts and individuals to share best practices. In addition, they collect data to inform state and local decisions.

Learn more: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>.

The Shah Family Foundation supports innovative and transformative work in education, healthcare and the community. They believe that interesting and lasting solutions sit where these intersect. Their primary work and support is centered in Boston, with the goal of sharing broadly the programs and innovations that prove successful in our home town.

Learn more at: <https://www.shahfoundation.org/>.

Project Bread is committed to preventing and ending hunger in Massachusetts. We provide access to food for people who are hungry today while working to break the cycle of hunger through advocacy, education, and community action.

Learn more at: ProjectBread.org/

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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9			5	4	3			

4/29

8	9	1	3	7	9	2	1	6
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9	2	7	6	1	1	9	8	3
3	9	8	1	2	6	1	9	7
7	6	1	9	8	3	9	2	1
9	1	2	1	9	7	6	3	8
2	7	9	8	6	1	3	9	1
1	8	6	9	3	9	1	7	2
1	3	9	7	1	2	8	6	9

HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

NOIINTOS

ACROSS

1 Eating

places

7 Skin

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13 Form a

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14 Feel

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15 Where

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16 Like bialies

17 Airline to

Stockholm

18 Baseball's

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19 Take an

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22 Mdse. bill

24 Yips

28 Military

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29 Pate de

— gras

30 Pair of

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31 Tolstoy's

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32 ER

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33 Frightening

34 Mosaic

36 Brillo

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38 Website

39 Tarot

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40 Ali —

41 Basketball

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42 Fish-eating

bird

43 Jr. naval

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44 Almost-

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47 FBI coun-

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53 Farthest

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57 Not injured

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59 Thinks fit

60 Got melo-

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DOWN

1 Twitch

2 Tumult

3 Ms. Arthur

4 Highland

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5 James

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6 Meeting

7 Rut

or habit

8 Find a

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35 Home

9 Shake

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10 Move to

and —

11 Sawbuck

12 Pig's digs

19 Carry-on

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20 Ballpark

event

21 Like some

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23 Sentra

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25 Second

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26 Clearer

27 Processes

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29 Saute

33 That senora

35 Home

furnishing

(2 wds.)

37 Very

difficult to

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40 Jaunty hats

46 Ancient

plant

48 Detail

49 Pulpit

50 Debacle

51 WSW

opposite

52 Sweater

letter

54 Horse's

morsel

55 Sault

— Marie

56 Mr. Danson

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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15											
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59								60			

4-29

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Cleaning up the neighborhood

Donovan Conway spent some of his outdoor time cleaning up his neighborhood recently. He collected nips, beer cans and straws among other items. Many residents are using their time at home to clean up streets where they walk while observing social distancing guidelines. (Courtesy photo)



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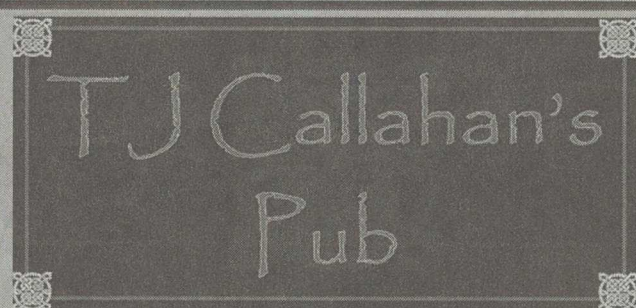
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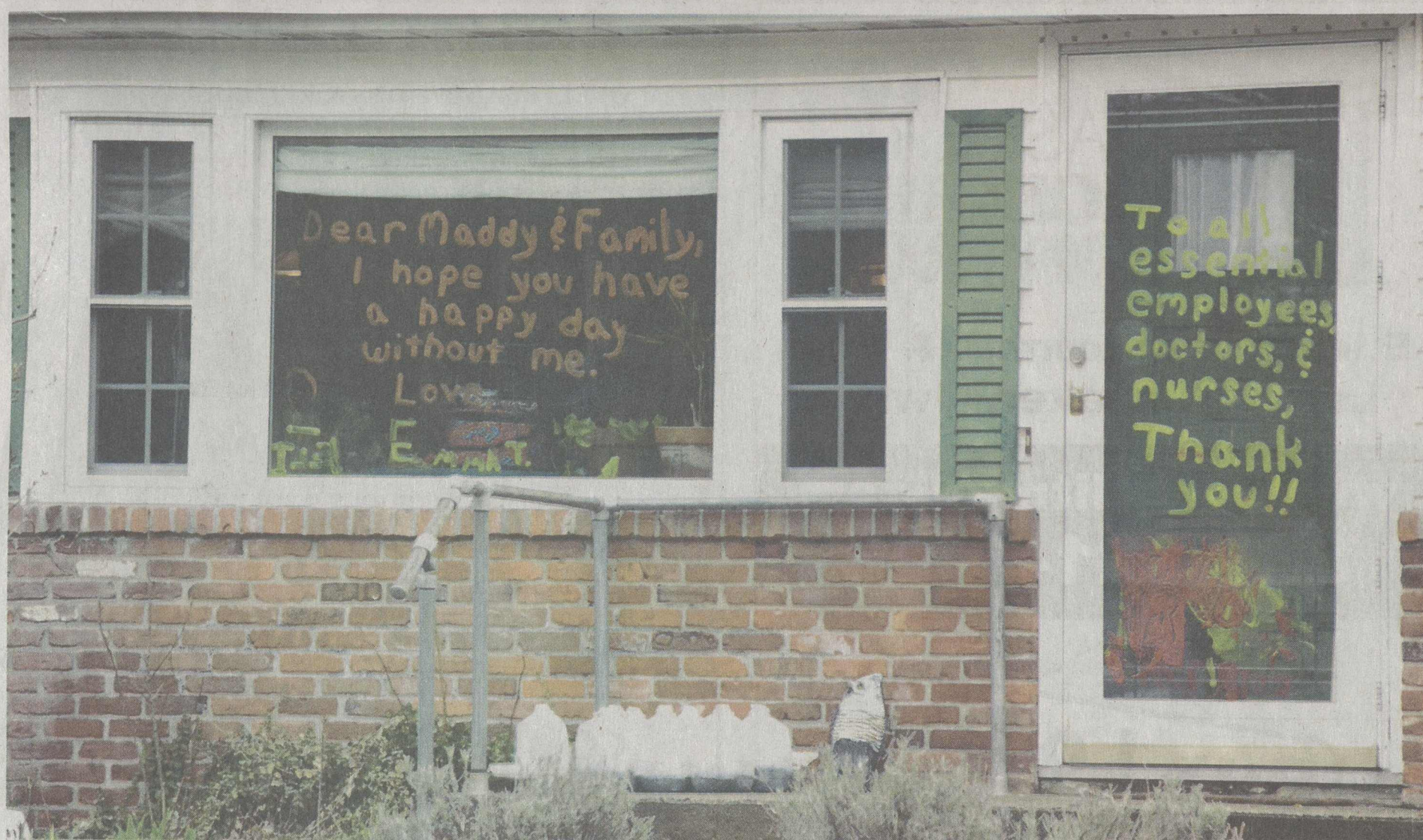
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Messages on glass

Some local residents appear to be communicating from the window blackboards of their home.

(photo: BruceHilliard.com)

Election to feature in-person and mail in voting options

ELECTION FROM PAGE 1

of election workers contains many individuals in higher-risk categories for contracting COVID-19. As such, she stated that the town would look into recruiting members of less vulnerable populations to assist. This could include reaching out to the Rotary Club or the National Honor Society to find high school students on summer vacation.

There are a series of ancillary dates necessary for adherence to a June 20 election date. This includes a requirement that the election warrant be posted 20 days prior, by June 1, and that the last day to register to vote by 10 days prior, June 10. Typically the last day to register is 20 days prior, but has been moved up due to special legislation. Campaign finance

reports are due June 12.

The town is also working on community outreach, including press releases for media outlets, a possible public service announcement through WCTV, and potentially outreach via resident email.

"There are certainly a lot of moving pieces that need to be looked at," said Touma-Conway. "No more moving pieces involved in a regular election, but different ones."

Town officials were planning to discuss on Wednesday, April 28 whether Town Meeting, currently scheduled for June 27, would also be moved. Town Manager Jeff Hull said he would like to see the meeting held as late as necessary to ensure a safe situation for attendees.

"Hopefully the time buys us the situation where the virus starts to drop off," Hull said.

Popular principal let go by Shawsheen Tech

COOK FROM PAGE 1

traditions of Shawsheen Tech and provide the forward thinking direction that allows our school to be the preeminent CVTE school in Massachusetts. The removal of Ms. Cook during this unprecedented pandemic and without a full-time, permanent superintendent is both unwise and irresponsible."

(Eds. note: the Shawsheen Tech School Committee this week voted to offer the superintendent job to Brad Jackson, current superintendent in Holliston.)

The petition, which was created on Monday, has more than 2,400 signatures.

At the School Committee meeting on Tuesday night, a number of callers tried to ask about the decision not to renew the contract.

However, the Vice Chairman of the School Committee Robert G. Peterson Sr. told multiple callers that the committee would not be inclined to give specific details on the decision. He also did not confirm whether the decision to renew Cook's contract was made by the School Committee or by the interim-superintendent, as certain matters are governed

by one or the other.

Peterson said that the reasons for the decision shouldn't have to be explained.

While the *Town Crier* reached out to School Committee Chairman Robert Gallagher, Interim Superintendent Melanie Hagman and principal Jessica Cook about the situation, none of them returned with a comment in time.

Virtual notarization signed into law by Governor Baker

BOSTON — Governor Charlie Baker gave final approval to a bill, based on legislation first proposed by Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), to overcome barriers to producing documents which need to be notarized, a growing challenge in the era of the public health requirements of social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

The newly signed law temporarily bypasses the requirement for wills, trust, health care proxy statements, real estate documents and the like to be signed and witnessed in face-to-face meetings with a state licensed notary. In its

place, such documents can now be made official by a notary who is a licensed attorney or a paralegal under the direct supervision of a state-licensed attorney by using electronic video conferencing.

"With the governor's signature today, critical legal documents such as wills, trusts and those involving real estate will be more readily available," said Senate Minority Leader Tarr.

"The new law will make executing them practical while protecting public health, with real benefits for people across the Commonwealth."

"We are very thankful for this legislation being

signed by Governor Baker and for the leadership of Senator Tarr to help get it over the finish line; closings and other notary procedures can be time intensive and to give people the opportunities they need to ask questions and get answers, this addresses those needs while keeping people safe," said Deborah Sousa, Executive Director, Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association.

"Speaker DeLeo and Senate President Spilka understand the importance of this solution and we agree that it will protect lives."

Authorized notary publics can use video confer-

encing for documents requiring notarization including those related to a mortgage or other conveyance of title to real estate, will, nomination of guardian or conservator, caregiver authorization affidavit, trust, durable power of attorney, or health care proxy.

Notaries are state-licensed and perform an official function of affirming that a document is authentic, an anti-fraud mechanism, which makes sure that the transaction and documents can be trusted while also providing a certified record of the transaction.

The new law will sunset three days after the state of emergency is lifted.

34 active COVID-19 cases not affiliated with long-term care facilities

COVID FROM PAGE 1

"We've been told that they've essentially segregated the current residents there so that they're separate from the patients coming in," Hull said. "For the moment it appears their situation is more in control."

CareOne currently has 45 active positives, and their number "keeps going up and up and up," Newhouse said that the facility has said they are currently in satisfactory shape with regard to staffing, and that a state epidemiologist is on staff.

Windsor place had an uptick on Monday in number of symptomatic patients. Newhouse said they were in touch with the Department of Public Health and the National Guard to determine how testing at the facility would take place.

Governor Charlie Baker recently released a set of new guidelines regarding long term care. Newhouse stated that the state will be conducting audits to make sure guidelines are being adhered to.

Newhouse urged anybody with family members in long-term care facilities reach out to the Nursing Home Family Resource Line at 617-660-5399

with any questions.

"I feel for the community members who have members there," Newhouse said. She also urged residents to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

"Really try to adhere to the less than 10 people gathering rule outside," Newhouse said.

Cavanaugh stated that first responders had been working closely with the health department. He said the fire department currently has adequate personal protective equipment and was sharing with the police department. He also noted that total call volume had decreased, but that the severity of medical issues and the number of COVID positive patients have both increased.

Selectman Kevin Caira thanked both Newhouse and Cavanaugh, and their staff.

"First responders are top notch in the Town of Wilmington," Caira said.

Selectmen Michael McCoy and Jomarie O'Mahony both encouraged mask-wearing among residents. McCoy added that he would like to see an official statement from the town regarding mask-wearing in public.

"I think residents when they leave the house they

should have at least some type of coverage on their face," McCoy stated, noting that masks did not necessarily need to be medical-grade but that perhaps residents could improvise their own with other materials they already have.

O'Mahony noted that she had seen many people, even those in at-risk groups, not wearing masks.

"I guess I just want to remind everyone to keep following the rules," she said.

Chairman Greg Bendel thanked both Newhouse and Cavanaugh for their work, and Newhouse for the continued detailed information. He also noted that school had just been cancelled for the remainder of the year, and spoke to the graduating senior class.

"We want to give a quick shoutout to the class of 2020," Bendel said. "We're all thinking of them tonight."

Bendel also offered condolences to the families and friends of those lost to the disease, noting the continued sobering numbers being released.

"Some of those really hit close to home for people living in Wilmington," Bendel said.

Daily Times Chronicle

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